

REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed October 10, 2003. At the time of the Office Action, Claims 1-34 were pending in this Application. Claims 3, 4 and 30-34 were objected to and Claims 1 and 2 were allowed. Claims 5-29 have been cancelled due to an election/restriction requirement. Claims 3, 4 and 30 have been amended to further define various features of Applicants' invention and to comply with the Examiner's restriction requirement. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

Election/Restriction Requirement

During a telephone conversation with Examiner on September 15, 2003, the Examiner set forth an election restriction requirement of the claimed inventions between Claims 1-4, drawn to Anion exchange membrane (classified in class 210, subclass 500.42), Claims 5-6, drawn to Cation exchange membrane (classified in class 210, subclass 500.42), Claims 7-24, drawn to process of making Anion exchange membrane (classified in class 526, subclass 237), Claims 25-29, drawn to process for making Cation exchange membrane (classified in class 156, subclass 246), and Claims 3-34, drawn to use of anion and Cation exchange membranes in electrodialysis (classified in class 204 subclass 522). Applicants made a provisional election with traverse to prosecute the invention of Claims 1-4. Applicants hereby confirm that election. Accordingly, Applicants hereby cancel Claims 5-29 without prejudice or disclaimer and elect that the cancelled claims are subject to the filing of a divisional application. Applicants additionally amend Claims 30-34 to refer solely to the anion membrane of Claim 1. Applicants reserve the right to file a divisional application directed to the subject matter of Claims 30-34 using a cation exchange membrane such as in Claim 5.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate Examiner's allowance of Claims 1 and 2 and indication that Claims 3 and 4 would be allowable if amended to correct the minor informalities. Applicants amend Claims 3 and 4 accordingly by replacing Iodide radicals with Chloride radicals and

respectfully request allowance of Claims 3 and 4, as amended. Additionally, Applicants amend Claim 30 to refer only to anion the exchange membrane of Claim 1. The description of the anion exchange membrane is copied from Claim 1 for clarity. Claims 31-34 depend from Claim 30 and thus also refer only to the anion exchange membrane. Therefore Claims 30-34 are no longer in multiple dependent form. Applicants respectfully request allowance of Claims 30-34.

CONCLUSION

Applicants have now made an earnest effort to place this case in condition for allowance in light of the amendments and remarks set forth above. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of Claims 1-4 and 30-34 as amended.

Applicants believe there are no fees due, however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees to Deposit Account No. 02-0384 of Baker Botts L.L.P.

If there are any matters concerning this Application that may be cleared up in a telephone conversation, please contact Applicants' attorney at 512.322.2580.

Respectfully submitted,

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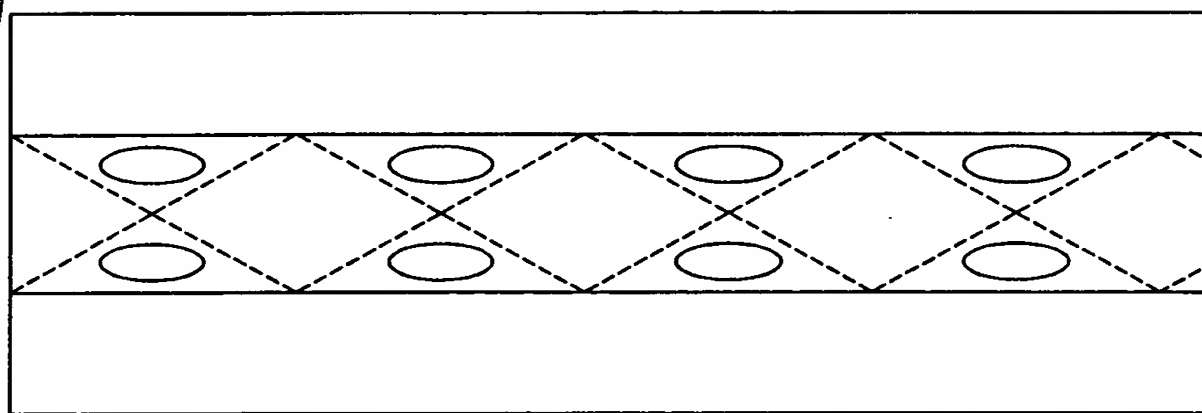
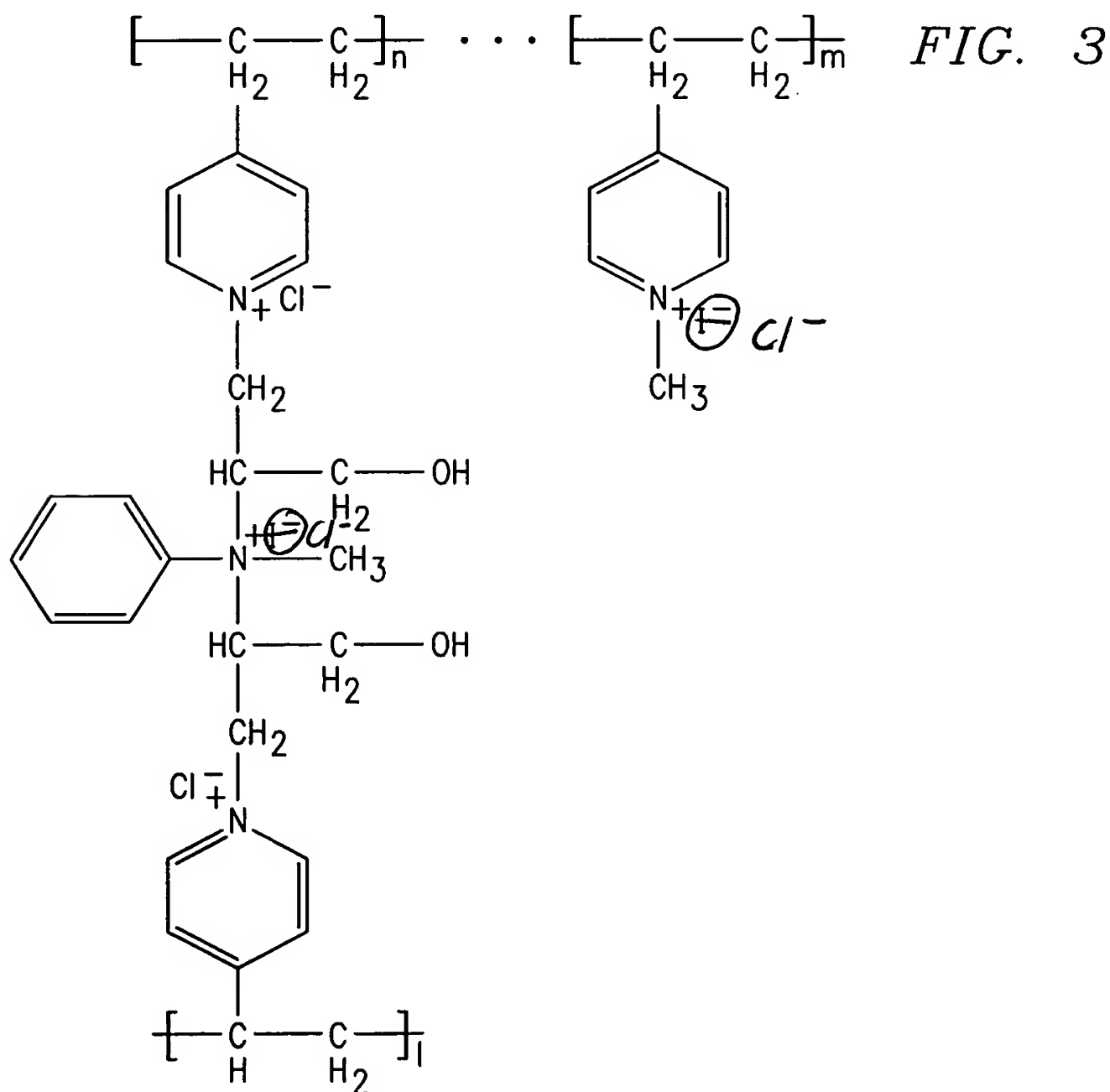
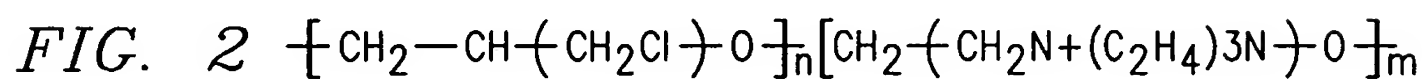


FIG. 1



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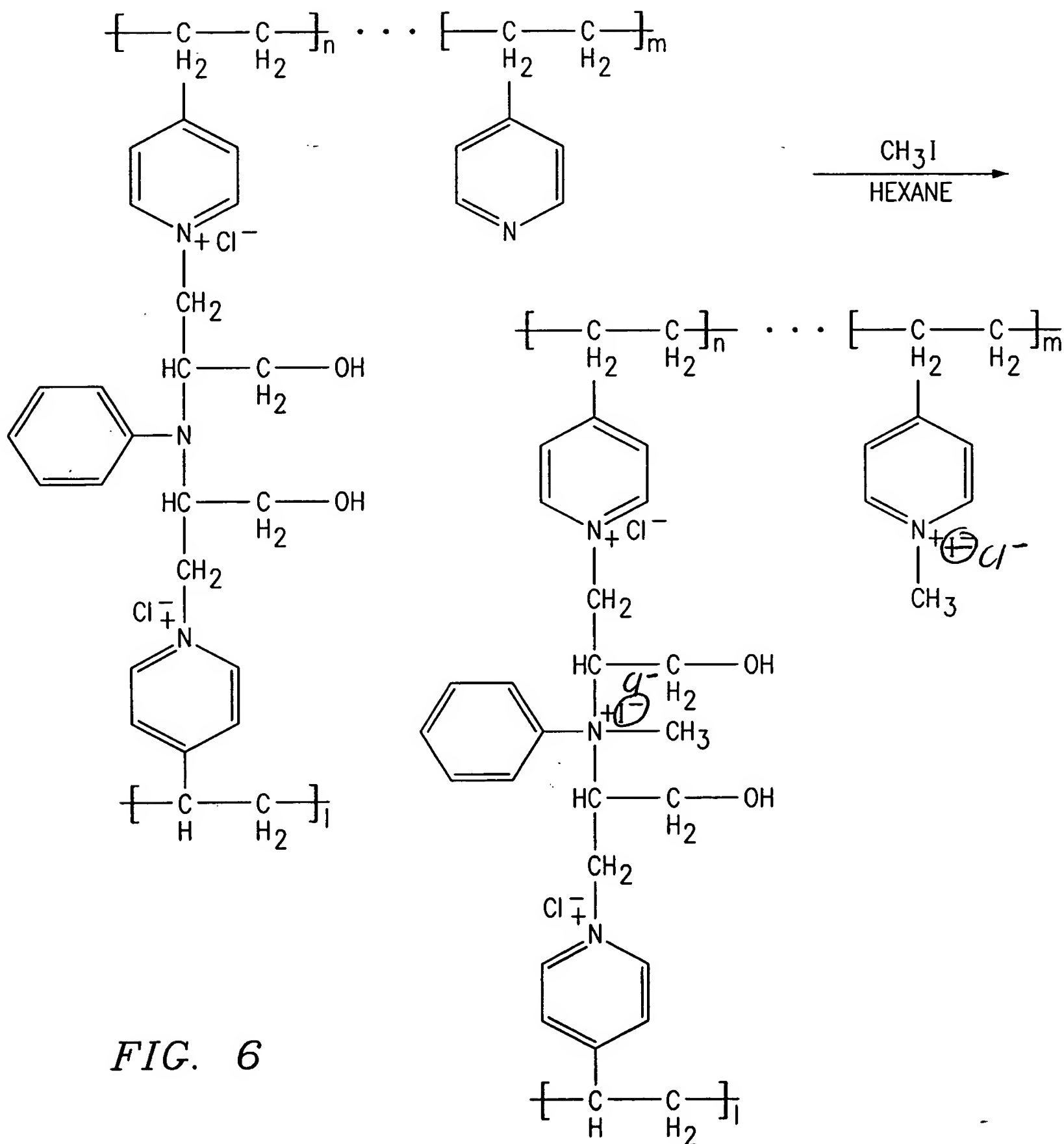
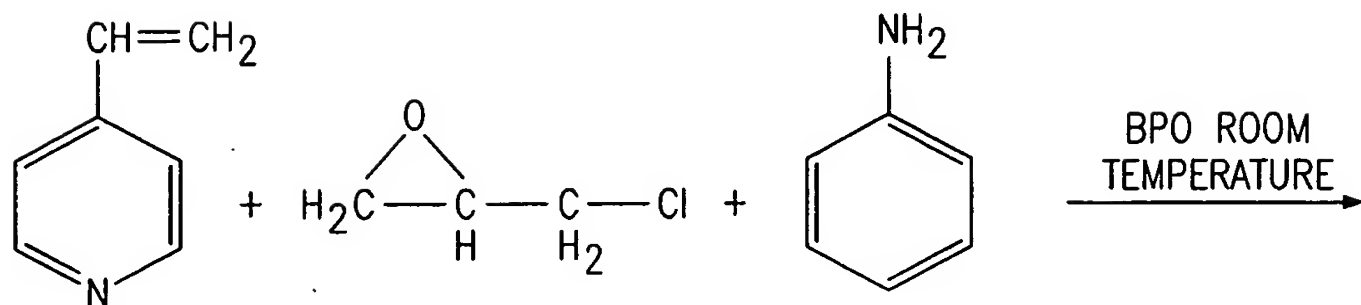


FIG. 6



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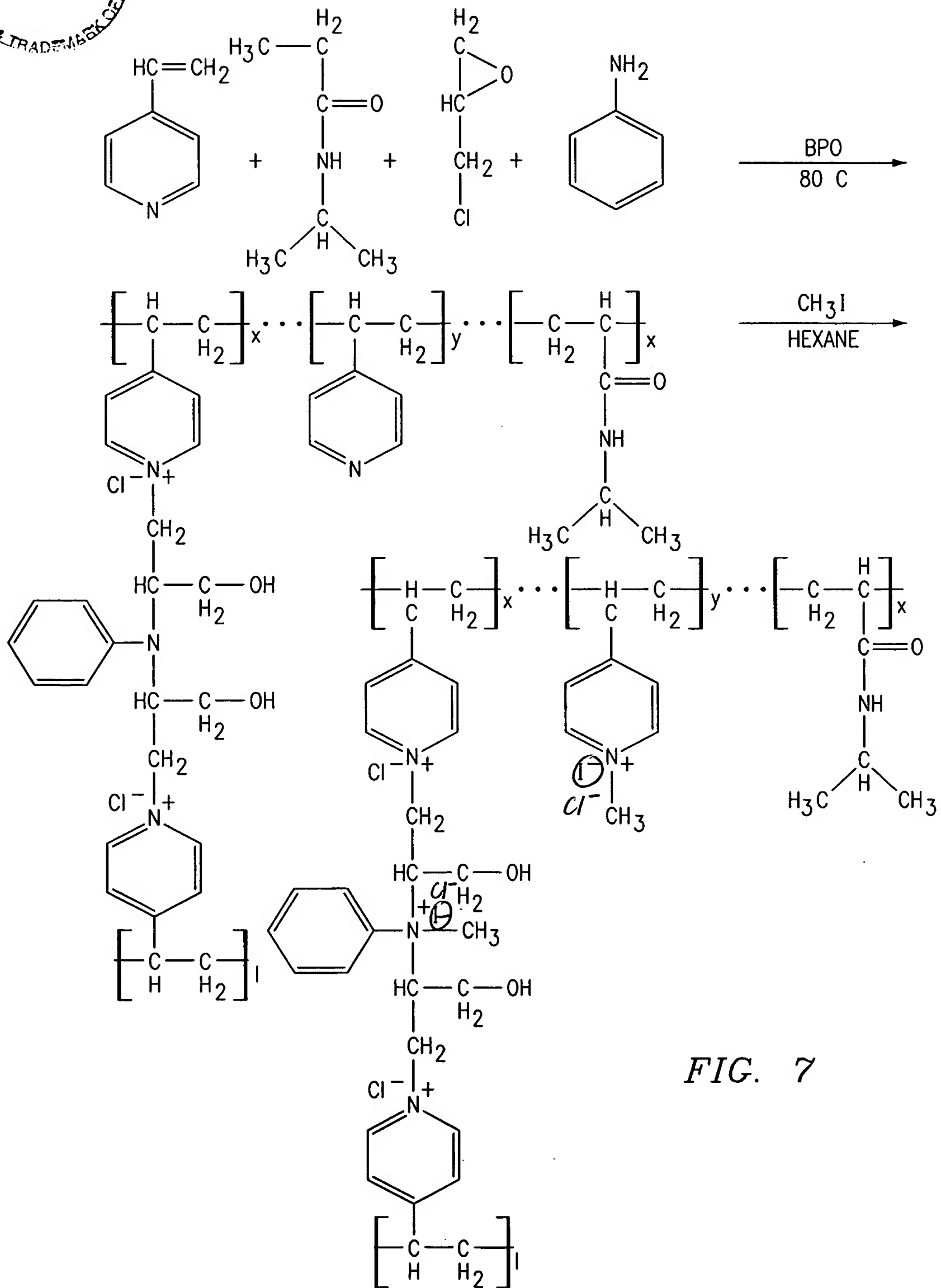


FIG. 7